Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Survey
2003

By Jessica Kitchell

Abstract

The number of pheasants seen during the 22-24 of April survey period by rural mail carriers per 100 miles driven was 0.68. This is a 19% increase from 0.57 observed in 2002. The number of pheasant seen per observer also increased from 0.81 in 2002 to 1.0 in 2003.

Methods

Survey forms were mailed in early April to postmasters in 32 counties across Wisconsin's pheasant range. Postmasters were asked to distribute the forms to their rural mail carriers. Carriers were instructed to record their route number, distance driven, and the number and sex of pheasants seen along their route on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the third full week of April. Data from the returned surveys were entered into the DNR UNIX production server and analyzed using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

In an effort to expand coverage of the Rural Mail Carrier Survey, Grant county was added in 1995 to the list of counties that were surveyed. None of the totals for Grant county will be used in the statewide totals so a long term trend can be observed.

Results

Rural mail carrier participation decreased by 10% in 2003. Six hundred and forty respondents saw 640 pheasants during the April 22, 23, and 24 survey period. This is an 11.2% increase from the number of pheasants seen in 2002. The counties with the highest number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven were Jefferson (2.12), Iowa (1.62), Fon Du Lac (1.10), and Grant (1.08) (Table 1, Fig. 2).

The statewide average number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven increased to 0.68 in 2003, a 19% increase from 2002. The number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven is slightly higher than the long-term mean of 0.60 (Figure 1). The number of pheasants seen per observer increased 23% from the 2002 ratio of 0.81 to 1.0 in 2003.

Table 1. *Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Sightings 2001-2003.*

County	Pheasants Sighted			Sightings/100 miles Driven		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Barron	5	2	15	0.23	0.09	1.00
Brown	5	23	9	0.11	0.61	0.18
Calumet	3	1	12	0.14	0.08	0.52
Columbia	5	0	13	0.13	0.00	0.31
Dane	23	26	32	0.31	0.35	0.40
Dodge	8	9	16	0.21	0.22	0.42
Door	4	2	11	0.19	0.13	0.59
Dunn	11	7	5	0.42	0.39	0.42
Fond Du Lac	22	58	40	0.65	1.76	1.10
Grant[1]	107	50	78	1.64	0.73	1.08
Green	54	20	21	1.89	0.60	0.75
Green Lake	10	7	7	0.49	0.34	0.36
Iowa	45	77	52	1.78	2.69	1.62
Jefferson	8	20	90	0.22	0.49	2.12
Kenosha	5	0	9	0.28	0.00	0.78
Kewaunee	4	8	7	0.14	0.30	0.28
Lafayette	29	35	11	1.67	1.99	0.76
Manitowoc	5	69	1	0.19	2.27	0.04
Oconto	14	5	8	0.48	0.21	0.35
Outagamie	6	8	34	0.13	0.18	0.78
Ozaukee	4	1	6	0.22	0.05	0.45
Pierce	5	24	23	0.13	0.65	0.74
Polk	19	17	19	0.61	0.62	0.71
Racine	16	8	2	0.76	0.23	0.10
Rock	19	11	20	0.39	0.21	0.80
St. Croix	48	40	45	0.94	0.73	0.94
Shawano	2	9	15	0.09	0.53	0.66
Sheboygan	8	11	16	0.24	0.33	0.44
Walworth	6	3	9	0.14	0.08	0.15
Washington	6	11	27	0.21	0.40	0.91
Waukesha	4	20	14	0.09	0.45	0.36
Winnebago	8	12	4	0.38	0.82	0.20
Unknown	5	29	47	0.02	1.32	2.54
Total	416	573	640	0.41	0.57	0.68

[1]Not included in totals

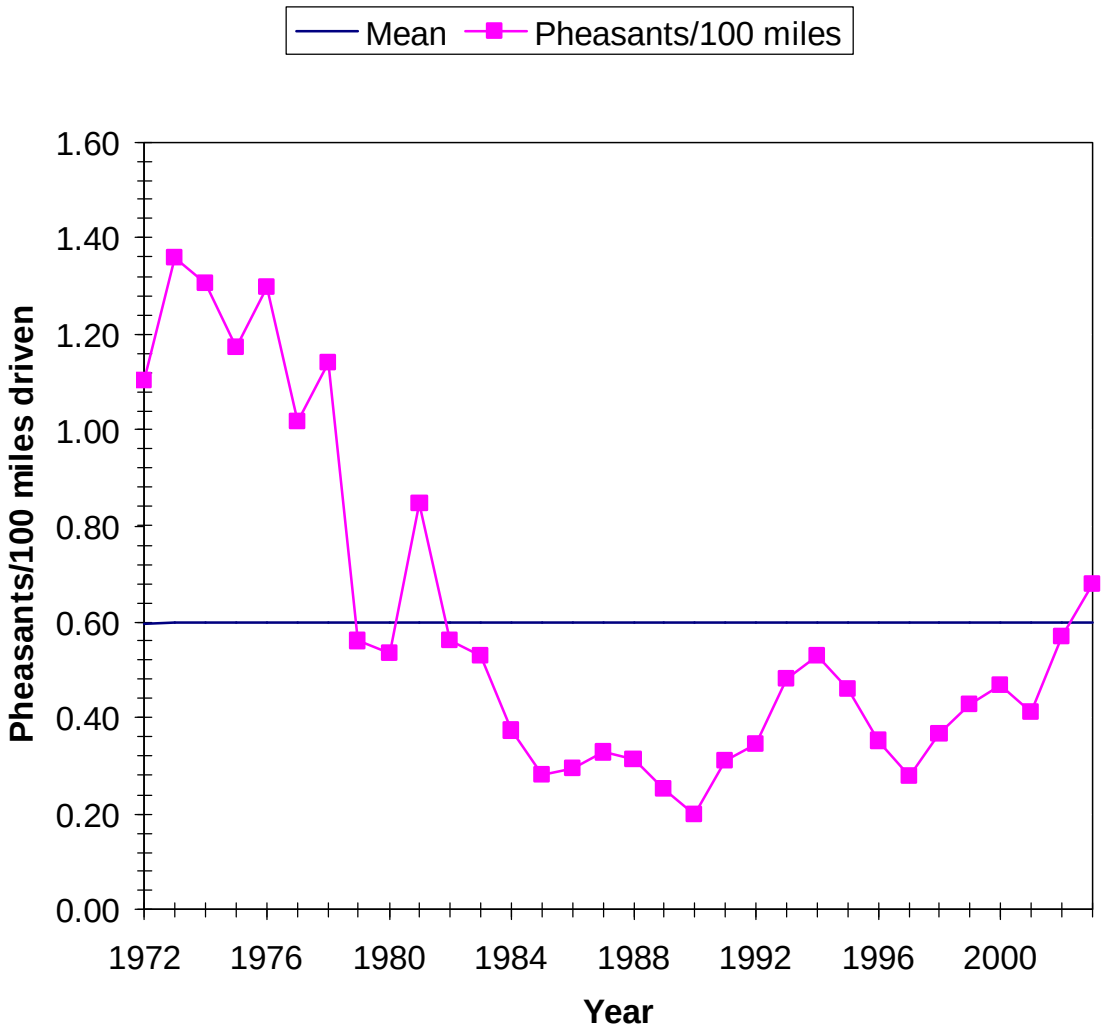

Figure 1. *Pheasants seen per 100 miles driven, 1972-2003.*

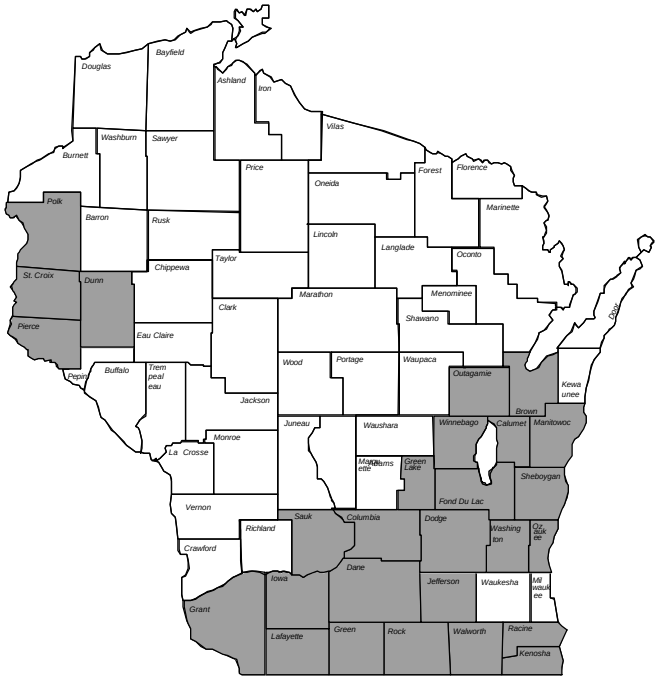

Figure 2. *Counties encompassing all or some of Wisconsin's primary pheasant range.*